

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00443 161620Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 FMC-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-07 AID-05 CPR-01 L-03 OPR-02 AGRE-00 /062 W
-----008627 162214Z /65

R 161559Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6000
INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS GUAYAQUIL 0443

CARACAS FOR MARAD ATTACHE

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, EC
SUBJ: CONGESTION OF GUAYAQUIL PORT FACILITIES

REF: GUAYAQUIL 0244

1. PORT CONGESTION CONTINUES AT GUAYAQUIL AND A RECENT GOVERNMENTAL DECREE ON DUTIES ON VEHICLE IMPORTS (EMBASSY QUITO WILL REPORT BY SEPTTEL) HAS ESACERBATED SITUATION EVEN FURTHER.

2. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 10,000 VEHICLES OF ALL TYPES ARE AWAITING MINISTRY OF FINANCE PERMISSION FOR CLEARANCE SO THAT ALL AVAILABLE SPACES IN THE PORT AREA ARE CONGESTED WITH VEHICLES. OPEN AREAS NORMALLY SET ASIDE FOR CONTAINER STORAGE ARE NOW BEING USED FOR VEHICLES AND THE CONTAINERS ARE BEING STACKED ALONG THE BOULEVARD LEADING TO THE PORT AREA AND ACTUALLY OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL CUSTOMS ZONE.

3. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION, WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, CAPT . (R.) JAIME VILLACRESES, EMPHASIZED THAT THE NEW 5 PERCENT TAX ON ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPORTS WILL BE STRICTLY APPLIED EVEN ON DIPLOMATIC SHIPMENTS OF WHATEVER VARIETY.

4. SHIPS CONTINUE TO WAIT FROM ONE TO SEVEN DAYS IN THE CHANNEL IN ORDER TO GET A BERTH TO RECEIVE AND DISCHARGE CARGO. REGULAR SERVICE VESSELS SUCH AS PRUDENTIAL LINE GET BERTHING PREFERENCE BECAUSE THESE VESSELS NORMALLY TAKE ON PERISHABLE CARGOES,

PARTICULARLY BANANAS AND PLANTAINS. NON-PERISHABLE CARGO SHIPMENTS TAKE A LOWER PRIORITY. LARGE QUANTITIES OF STEEL ARE ENTERING THE COUNTRY AND THE DISCHARGE OF THIS CARGO TIES UP A BERTHING SPACE MUCH LONGER THAN GENERAL CARGO. WITH ONLY FIVE BERTHS AVAILABLE THIS IS CRITICAL.

5. THE EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR GUAYAQUIL'S PORT FACILITIES GOES ON APACE. DREDGING IN THE MAIN AREA IS COMPLETED AND PILE DRIVING AND SOIL STABILIZATION ACTIVITIES ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY. RAYMOND INTERNATIONAL OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN MEET THE AGREED UPON SCHEDULE FOR COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT ABOUT THE END OF 1980. IN THE MEANTIME, HOWEVER, THE PORT CONGESTION CONTINUES. THE PORT OF MANTA DOES NOT REPORT ANY CONGESTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, PORT FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GUAYAQ00443
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780118-0035
Format: TEL
From: GUAYAQUIL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780361/aaaabzsr.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6e244bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GUAYAQUIL 244
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3312911
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGESTION OF GUAYAQUIL PORT FACILITIES
TAGS: EWWT, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6e244bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014